

# Developing National Information Resources to Expand Availability of Evidence to Practitioners

Zviad Kirtava, Kakhi Paposhvili  
National Information Learning Centre  
Tbilisi, GEORGIA



Date: 07/30/02  
3:30 PM

# Crisis of Medical Informatics in 90's

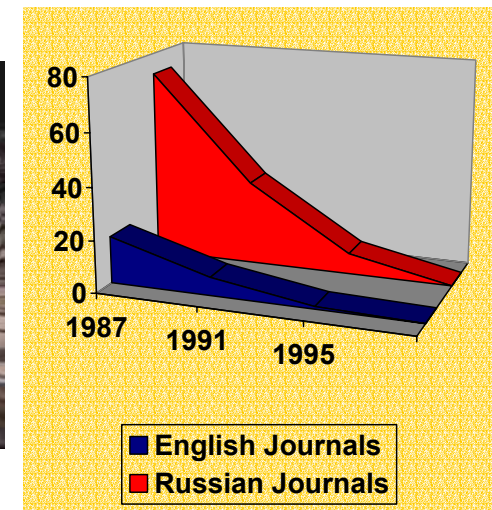


✓ In Early 90's Medical Informatics in Georgia has experienced a sharp decline. Number of available both English- and Russian- language journals dropped on 80-85%!



✓ In 1987 two medical libraries in Tbilisi were providing *Index Medicus*, and one - *Current Content*.

✓ In 1995 - none!



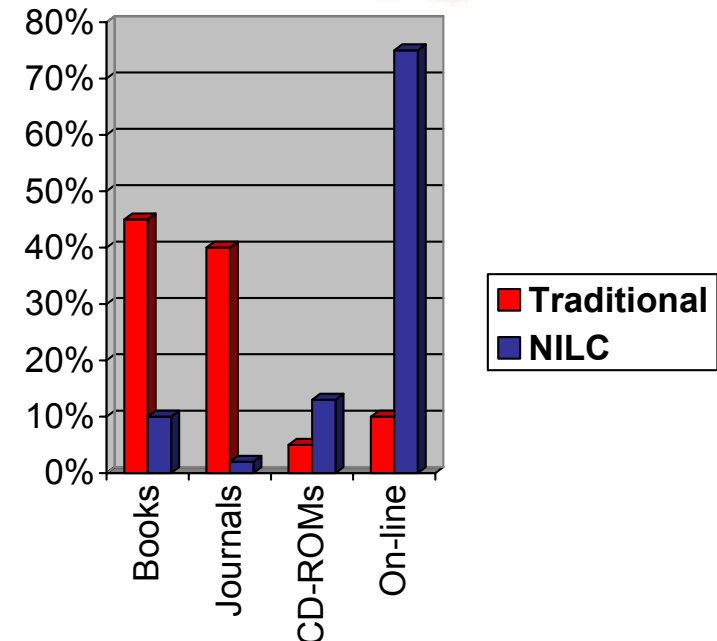
# NILC – new type of electronic LRC



**K** NILC was established in 1996 in cooperation between Ministry of Health, AIHA and Emory University (Atlanta-Tbilisi Health Partnership). NILC represents new (non-traditional) type of electronic medical library.

## **KNILC Goals:**

- ❖ To provide access to global information resources essential to health care provision, education and biomedical research
- ❖ To bring about in the Republic of Georgia a major transition in methods of information management, education and communication



# NILC on-line resources



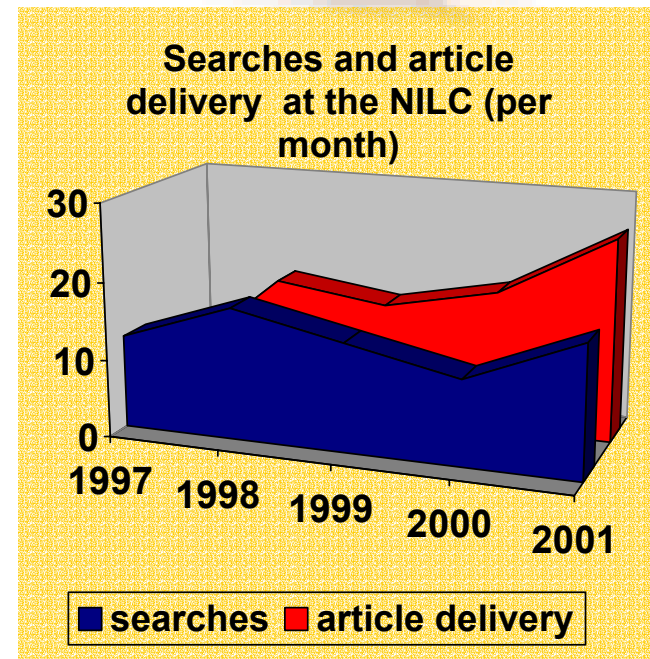
- Medline/OVID (abstracts from 3800 biomedical journals, 30 full-text journals);
- USUHS resources (over 200 full-text journals).
- MDConsult (48 full-text journals, 42 reference books);
- EBSCO-EPNET (120 full-text);
- HINARI-WHO (over 150 full-text journals);
- HighWire Stanford resources (over 100 full-text journals);



# Full-text article delivery



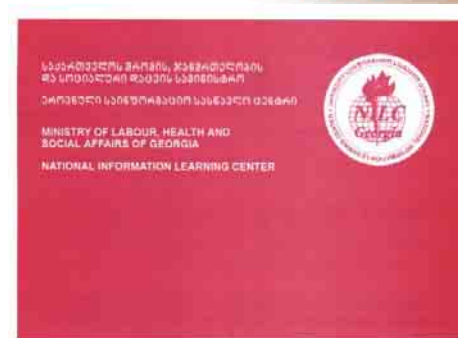
- Electronic full-text article delivery was established in 1997.
- During 1997-99 - from Emory University Health Science Center (Atlanta, GA, supported by Emory grant)
- During 2000-2002 – from Uniform Service University of Health Sciences (USUHS, Bethesda, MD, supported by PIMS)



# Internet Medical Digest



- In 1997 NILC has started to distribute bi-weekly bilingual (Georgian-English) bulletin – IMD both in printed and electronic format.
- Health Promotion, rational pharmacotherapy, cardiology, AIDS, TB, Oncology and other topics, including EBM, RCT and CPG have been covered.
- In 1999 IMD was awarded WB PCU small grant for health promotion
- for present 84 issues have been issued



ინტერნეტის  
სამედიცინო  
დანიშნულება

**INTERNET  
MEDICAL  
DIGEST**

# Evidence Based Medicine

---



*“We have no publications on the efficacy of this method of treatment, but I can assure you - the method is excellent. We had numerous patients treated... All had good results, no complications...”*

*Georgian professor at Conference in Tbilisi, 1997*



- NILC has carried out first workshop on the EBM in 1997 (F. Westbrook, S. Foote, Emory University). Since 1997 NILC *Cochrane Library* CD-Rom provided by AIHA), since 2000 – *Clinical Evidence* (provided by BMJ) and on-line EBM resources (Cochrane Library - by USUHS).
- However, still EBM resources are not widely used by the Georgian practitioners. The problem might be yet unusual format and language barrier.

# Internet Discussion Club



Based on recent medical information obtained from the on-line worldwide resources, NILC has collected young doctors and scientists and since 1999 carries out quarterly meetings dedicated to the EBM and state of the art issues of Medicine – Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Oncology, Urology, Preventive Medicine, Clinical Pharmacology and Rational Pharmacotherapy.

Materials have been produced and distributed to Georgian regions (in cooperation with UMCOR Georgia).





# New Journal - Contemporary Medicine

---



In 2002 NILC has won tender announced by the Ministry of Health which aims to produce:

- contemporary web-page reflecting ongoing healthcare programs;
- quarterly journal for continuous medical education (on Georgian, in both printed and in on-line format), which would provide updated and adapted versions of the Clinical Practice Guidelines, EBM reviews, Clinical reviews, Conference News, Drug Profiles, Ministerial news, debates on medical education.



## **First issue of *Contemporary Medicine***

CPG: Chronic Heart Failure, Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation, Diagnosis and Treatment of C-Hepatitis. EBM: Comparison of Corticosteroids and NSAIDS in RA. Clinical Reviews: Treatment of Hypertensive Crisis; Chronic Hepatitis and Cirrhosis - state of art; Drug Profile: COX2 inhibitors – end of myth?

# Plans



- Opening Distance Learning Center (DLC) at the newly established National Medical Center (NMC) Hospital. DLC would assist in provision of the modern cutting-edge learning modules in nursing and hospital administration, as well as in CME.
- Participation in the modern Clinical Practice Guidelines and Guidelines Applied Practice (GAP) development, outcome research at the NMC.
- ✓ Cooperation planned with different institutions: AIHA, PfID, Emory University, BMJ, Council of Europe's Health Committee, WHO, DFID, Open Society Georgian Foundation (Soros Foundation).
- ❑ Sources of additional funding: advertisements from pharmaceutical companies, subscription.



## **Dr. Archil Kobaladze –**

Coordinator of the Tbilisi-Atlanta Health Partnership, Chairman of the *Partners for Health* Foundation, pioneer of many international projects in Georgia, including partnership models, NILC, EMS TC, Women Wellness Center, the man, who was known as an “Ambassador of Georgian Health System” –

Born - Tbilisi 30.06.1944

**Died - Atlanta, 24.12.2001**

